



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

Civic Center Complex, Room 316, 1 N.W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Evansville, IN 47708-1833
PH: (812) 436-7833 FAX: (812) 436-7834 www.evansvillempo.com

Bradley G. Mills, P.E., Executive Director

EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Regular meeting held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 318
Civic Center Complex – Administration Building
Evansville, Indiana**

September 6, 2007

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

William Harty, Glen Boberg, Emmanuel Nsonwu, Pat Keepes, Nick Hall, Brandon Sheridan, Richard Meyer, Gina Boaz, Stephanie Lefler, Maurice Pearl

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

Brad Mills, Kari Akin, Craig Luebke, Seyed Shokouhzadeh, Vishu Lingala, Laura Lamb

Others Present:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Keepes: The first item on the agenda is approval of minutes for the August meeting. Do we have a motion for approval? (Motion was made by Mr. Harty and seconded by Mr. Nsonwu.) SO ORDERED.

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT UPDATE

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects

Green River Road – Lincoln Avenue:

Ms. Lamb: The consultant received design approval from INDOT on August 1, 2007. Right-of-way activities can now begin.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects

Green River Road – Millersburg Road:

Ms. Lamb: Right-of-way acquisition is underway.

Oak Hill Road – Bergdolt Road:

Ms. Lamb: Right-of-way acquisition for this project is being finalized. The County has received at least a verbal acceptance of the proposals from all nine of the affected parcels.

Local Projects

Green River Road:

Ms. Lamb: Right-of-way acquisition is underway for all remaining sections of this project from Lynch Road to Millersburg Road.

Baseline Road, CSX Overpass:

Ms. Lamb: Just a brief description since we have added this. The project will improve emergency access to northwestern Vanderburgh County residents by constructing an overpass for Baseline Road traffic at the CSX rail line which is parallel to and west of US Highway 41. Currently, CSX freight trains block the intersection at Baseline Road along with other intersections to the south which prevents emergency access from US Highway 41. This project is listed in the MPO's TIP for construction in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$4.9 million. The County is now in the process of purchasing the needed right-of-way.

Cross Pointe Boulevard Extension:

Ms. Lamb: We have also added the Cross Pointe Boulevard Extension. I'll give a brief description of this project. The project includes widening the existing sections of Cross Pointe Boulevard between Virginia Street and Columbia Street, and Oak Grove Road and Morgan Avenue to five lanes. The County will then extend Cross Pointe Boulevard from Columbia Street to Oak Grove Road. The construction phase of this project is currently listed in the MPO's TIP to begin construction in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$7.6 million. Right-of-way is currently being purchased.

WARRICK COUNTY

Surface Transportation Program Project

Telephone Road:

Ms. Lamb: This project is complete and the road has been opened to traffic.

INDOT PROJECTS

Surface Transportation Program Projects

SR 57 – SR 68 intersection improvements:

Ms. Lamb: The improvements for this intersection are being made to accommodate the proposed I-69 traffic from SR 57, by way of SR 68. The project will add a dedicated left turn lane and a dedicated right turn lane to the northern approach. On the south, east, and west approaches, dedicated left turn lanes will be added. This project was amended into the MPO's TIP in February, 2007. A Preliminary Field Check meeting was held on August 7, 2007 at INDOT's Evansville Substation office. If this project goes as scheduled, it should be ready for construction by the fall of 2008.

SR 66 (Warrick County) Phase II-SR 261 to French Island Trail:

Ms. Lamb: This project has been added to INDOT's website with a proposed letting date of December 12, 2007.

SR 62/Lloyd Expressway – Fulton Avenue Interchange:

Ms. Lamb: The Final Field Check meeting was held on August 15, 2007 in the Civic Center Complex. Right-of-way acquisition continues. Of the thirteen parcels that will be affected by the acquisition, three of those will be relocations. Construction is expected to begin on this project in May, 2008.

Corridor Assessments

I-69 Indiana and Kentucky Corridor Location:

Section of Independent Utility (SIU) #3 – Indianapolis to Evansville

Ms. Lamb: The second I-69 Community Planning Program Community Workshop was held on August 20, 2007 in Petersburg, Indiana. The program offers a \$40,000 base grant to eligible communities. Gibson, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties and Evansville, Oakland City, and Princeton are in the list of local government entities that are eligible to apply. An additional \$10,000 is available to entities for cooperative efforts that create a plan commission, or that plan for the direct protection or enhancement of natural resources. October 5, 2007 is the deadline for Round 1 to receive applications or letters of intent.

KYTC PROJECTS

Surface Transportation Program Projects

US 60, US 41-A to KY 425/Henderson By-Pass:

Ms. Lamb: The proposed letting date for this project has been pushed back to September 7, 2007, due to a maintenance-of-traffic issue.

US 60, KY 425/Henderson By-Pass to Waverly:

Ms. Lamb: The KYTC has scheduled two public hearings to views the alternatives for this project. I have included in the next page the flyer we received from KYTC. In the first paragraph there, it says that one hearing will be held Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Waverly. The other meeting will be held Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the AB Chandler Elementary School gymnasium in Corydon. So if anybody has any questions about those meetings, they can contact me at the MPO office and I can get them additional information. Does anybody have any questions about these projects or is there any discussion about any of the other projects?

Mr. Harty: I have a question that the State should answer on the St. Joseph Avenue project. There is no way this project should be dragging on this long. The contractor is only working on a small section at a time. This is ridiculous the way that project was handled because they should have put a lot of people in there and got the thing done. They are just dragging the thing out and not working at a rapid pace. That's all I have to say about the project.

Mr. Keepes: I will go ahead and address that, Bill. That is actually an LPA project. It is a local project that is utilizing federal funds. The maintenance of traffic has been split up into several phases to minimize the disruption of traffic. Ideally, we could close down the entire section of road and not have to deal with traffic at all. It would save us construction costs and it would save us time as well. But realistically, we are just not able to do that. The contractor has been working, I think, quite a bit. In fact, as I drove through there last night, they were working close to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Harty: Well, I saw them working late last night, that's not the point. But I have gotten comments from several people in my organization about how come it is taking so long. They tear up one side of it for miles and they will be working only on one block at a time. They won't be working on a whole section, just one little section at a time. People think they should get it done sooner. That's all I'm saying.

Mr. Keepes: I realize the public's perception is that way sometimes. Unfortunately, they don't see the entire picture and understand the construction aspects of how these projects get built. But it is on schedule as of right now and we are pleased with the progress so far. It is very early on. Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2008-2011 TIP Amendment

Mr. Luebke: We have one TIP amendment today. This is for the City of Corydon. KYTC is requesting that the following project be added to the TIP. This is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for Crawford Field Park Walking Trail in the City of Corydon. The proposed project will involve the construction of a new 1,376 foot asphalt walking trail encircling Crawford Field Park in the City of Corydon. Additional features will include benches, tables, lighting and signage. The proposed trail replaces an existing gravel path. Construction, although this is in the fiscal year 2008 TIP, will be in federal fiscal year 2007 funds at a cost of \$21,000. It is a 50 % match - \$10,500 in RTP funds and a \$10,500 local match from the City of Corydon. You will also see the revised TIP page on the next that does show the recreational trail project there for Corydon. As I said, it's shown in the fiscal '08 column.

But it actually is going to be '07 funds. I resolved that issue with KYTC and Federal Highway in Kentucky. They are comfortable with it being shown in that structure in our current tip, even though it is a past year. Are there any questions? I think they are ready to move on this very soon; construction in the next couple months I believe.

Mr. Keepes: Are there any questions for Craig? Do we have a motion for approval? (Motion was made by Mr. Boberg and seconded by Mr. Nsonwu.) SO ORDERED.

OTHER BUSINESS

2007 Annual Indiana MPO Conference Update

Mr. Luebke: We wanted the Technical Committee members to also be aware that next month we will be hosting the state-wide MPO conference, as well as having some surrounding states' participation. We have the tentative agenda for you to look over. That will be further revised as we move forward and the final version will be on the website as we move along. If you are interested in participating in any of the conference days or particular sessions, I think what we would like to offer is if you have a session you would like to attend; we would waive the registration fees for any of our Technical and Policy Board members. If you wish to partake in a full day or the entire session then, due to our meal costs and such, we would ask that the Technical Committee members that wish to participate would go through the full registration process. But you would be offered the government rate which is \$35 for a day session and \$60 for the three day conference. If anybody has any questions about the conference, I can answer those.

Mr. Keepes: Craig, thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Mr. Keepes: Is there any other business? Thank you all for attending.

Meeting adjourned.